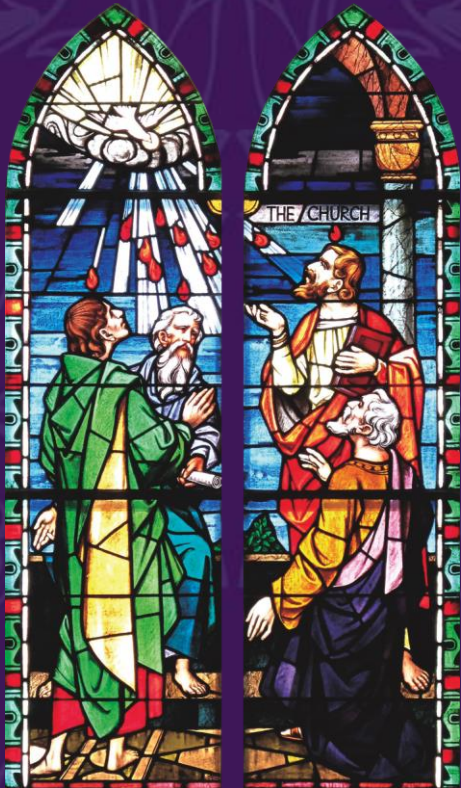


# SPIRITUAL Gifts



# MENU

What Are Spiritual Gifts?

The Church & Spiritual Gifts

The Holy Spirit & Spiritual Gifts

Have Some Spiritual Gifts Ceased?

The Spiritual Gifts  
(explanation of each gift)

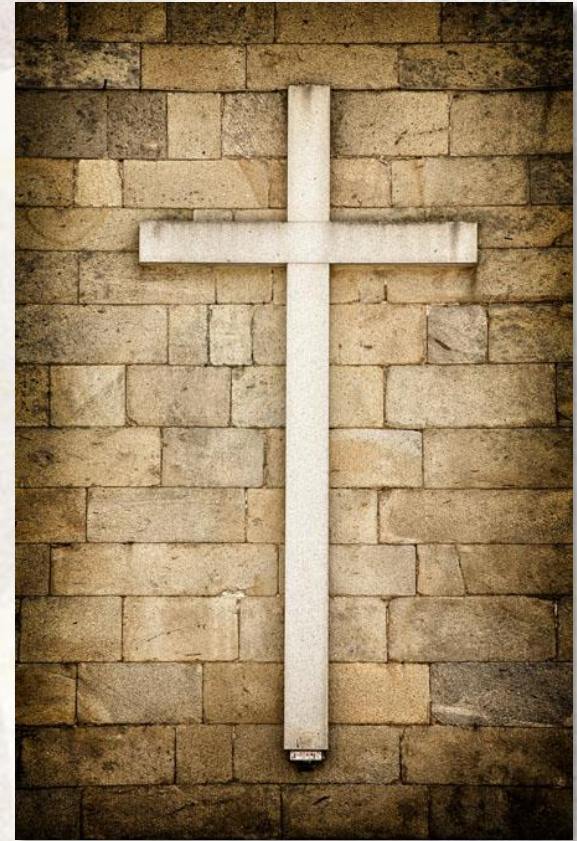
Finding Your Spiritual Gifts

# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

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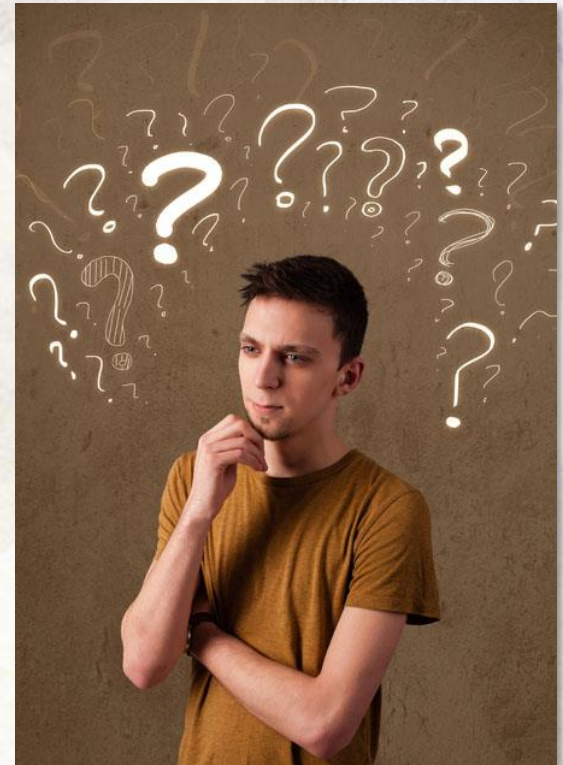
# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- You've become a believer and, perhaps, even joined a church. Your wonderful and challenging journey has just begun.



# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- How do you go about being an active member in the life of the church?
- The good news is that God himself will help each believer fit into God's church.
- The way God does this is through the special empowering of the Holy Spirit.



# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

## **God promised us that:**

- He will be with each of his people “to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:20).
- He will give us all the tools we need to serve him and each other: “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8).

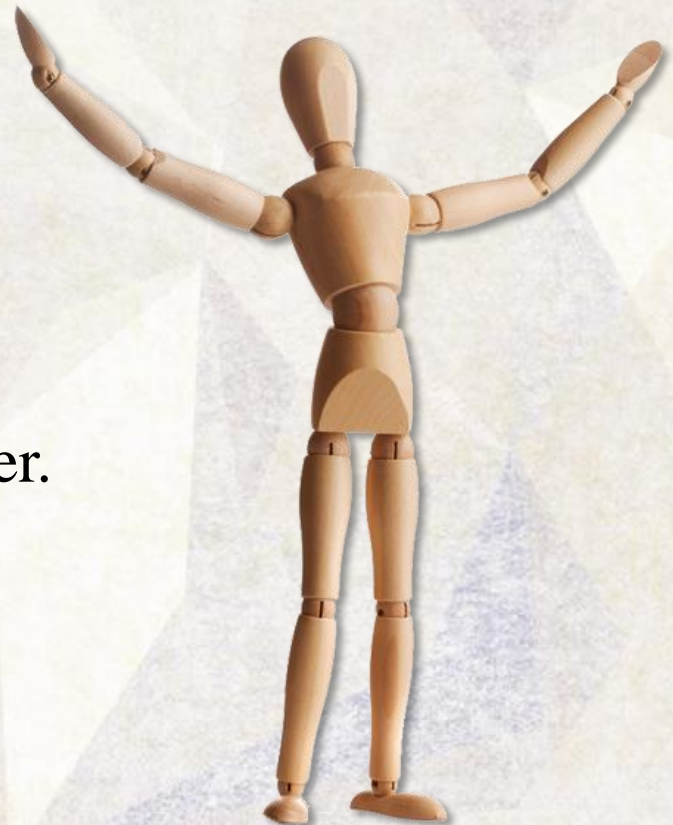
# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- The apostle Paul used a helpful illustration when he explained what the church is and how it works: the image of the body.
  - “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”—Romans 12:4–5



# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

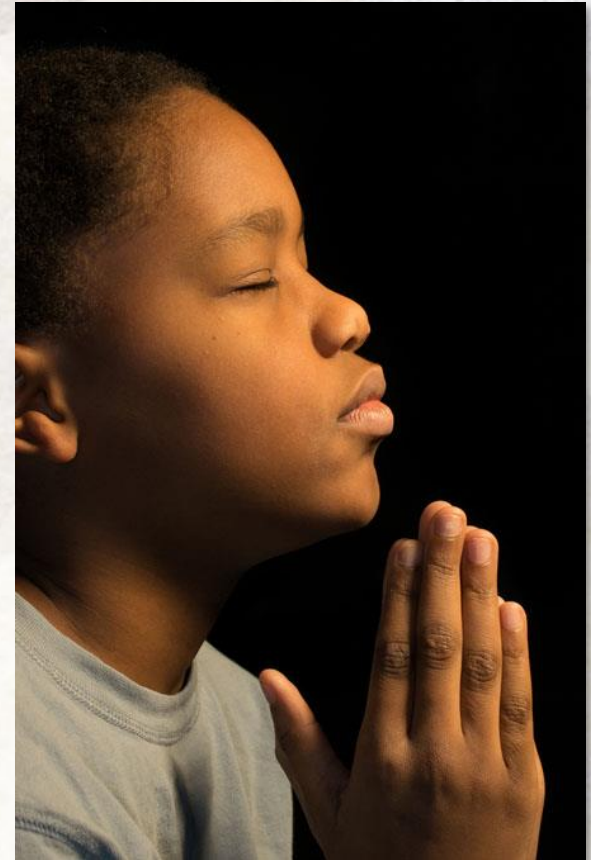
- Paul taught in his letters that for the church to function correctly, each member of the “body” must perform a role.
- God prepared *ministries*.
  - Ministries are activities believers do that serve and allow the church to grow and mature.
  - These ministries exist for each believer.





# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- God empowers every believer who forms part of the church to participate in one or more of these ministries.



# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God gives gifts—in the sense of “presents”—to each believer.
- These gifts are called “spiritual gifts” because they are directly connected to the work of the Holy Spirit.
- Through these gifts, the life and the ministry of the church occur.



# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

The English word *gift* has two meanings:

- **1)** A special ability or talent—such as playing piano, learning languages, and so on.



# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

The English word *gift* has two meanings:

- 2) Something that is given without a charge and freely—such as a *present* for a birthday.



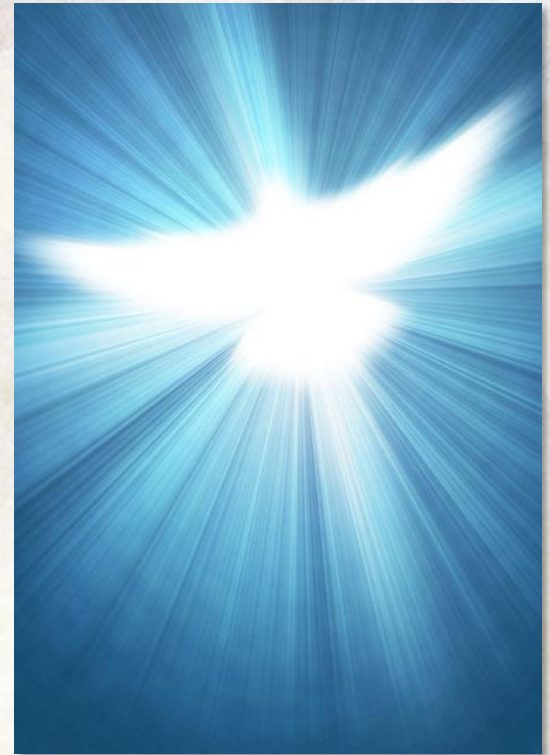
# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

**These two definitions color the way we read the New Testament.**

- For some of these ministries, God did give special talents and abilities—for healings, miracles, or speaking in tongues.
- However, the emphasis of the New Testament is not on the abilities themselves, but on how they function in the ministries (services) of the church.

# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- What makes the gifts *spiritual* is that they come from the Holy Spirit.
- What makes them *gifts* is that the Holy Spirit freely gives them to us so we can use them in serving the body of Christ.



# WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- Spiritual gifts are not meant to be stored or publicized. They are meant to be *used* for the service of the body.

*Use your spiritual tools!*



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# THE CHURCH & SPIRITUAL GIFTS



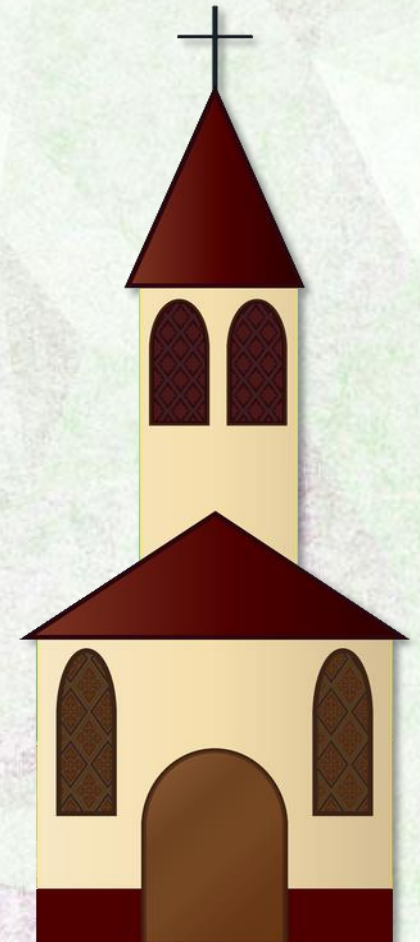
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# THE CHURCH

## What is the church?

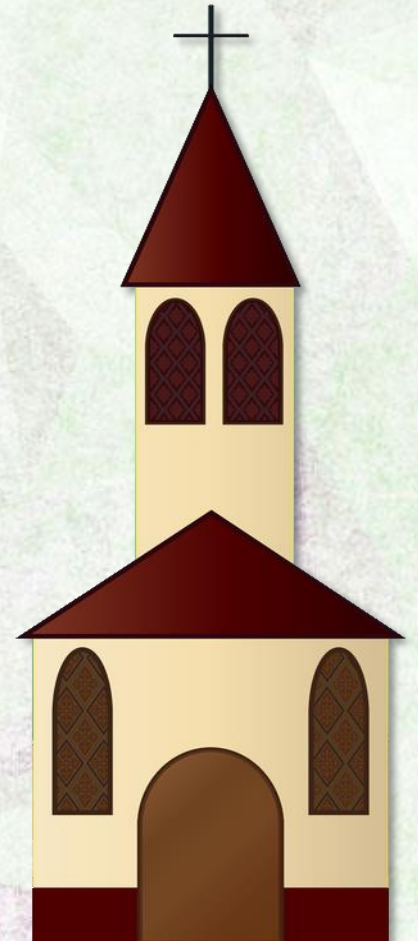
- The English word *church* comes from a Greek word (*kuriaskos*) that means “belonging to the Lord.”
- However, the most common word in the New Testament for church is *ekklesia*, which means “assembly, gathering.”



# THE CHURCH

## What is the church?

- *Ekklesia* is used for the gathering of believers in specific places to worship and have fellowship together.



# THE CHURCH

## What is the church?

- The church is made up of individuals. Yet, it is more than just the sum of individuals. It is a divine institution.
- The church is one (it is Christ's body) even if it can be found in many places and at different times. The church is universal.



# THE CHURCH

## What is the church?

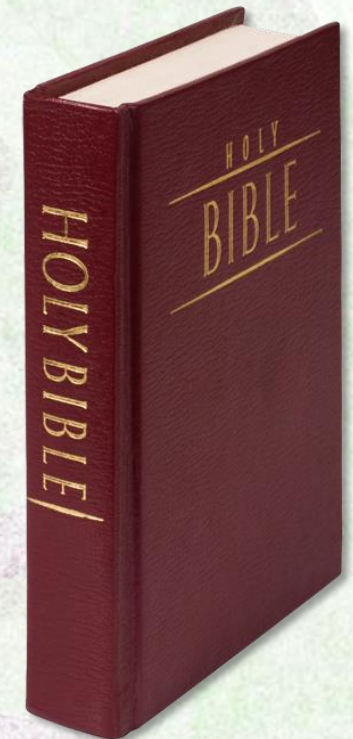
- Christ's body is found throughout the world, and it is timeless. It contains all the people who have believed and those who will believe.



# THE CHURCH

**There are four lists of spiritual gifts in the Bible:**

- One in Paul's letter to the Ephesians
- One in Paul's letter to the Romans
- Two in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians



# THE CHURCH

## **The List in Ephesians:**

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Evangelists
- Pastor-teachers (or pastors and teachers)

# THE CHURCH

“So Christ himself gave the **apostles**, the **prophets**, the **evangelists**, the **pastors and teachers**, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

—*Ephesians 4:11–13* (emphasis added)

# THE CHURCH

## **The List in Romans:**

- Prophecy
- Service/serving
- Teaching
- Encouragement
- Giving
- Leading
- Showing mercy



# THE CHURCH

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is **prophesying**, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is **serving**, then serve; if it is **teaching**, then teach; if it is to **encourage**, then give encouragement; if it is **giving**, then give generously; if it is to **lead**, do it diligently; if it is to **show mercy**, do it cheerfully.”—*Romans 12:6–8* (emphasis added)

# THE CHURCH

## **First List in 1 Corinthians:**

- A word of wisdom
- A word of knowledge
- Faith
- Healings
- Workings of miracles
- Prophecy
- Distinguishing the spirits
- Speaking in tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

# THE CHURCH

“To one there is given through the Spirit a message of **wisdom**, to another a message of **knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another gifts of **healing** by that one Spirit, to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another speaking in different **kinds of tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues.**”—*1 Corinthians 12:8–10* (emphasis added)

# THE CHURCH

## **Second List in 1 Corinthians:**

- Apostles
- Prophets
- Teachers
- Miracles
- Healings
- Helps
- Guidance
- Tongues
- Interpreting tongues

# THE CHURCH

“And God has placed in the church first of all **apostles**, second **prophets**, third **teachers**, then **miracles**, then gifts of **healing**, of **helping**, of **guidance**, and of different kinds of **tongues**.  
Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers?  
Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing?  
Do all speak in **tongues**? Do all **interpret**?  
Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.”  
—*1 Corinthians 12:28–31* (emphasis added)

# THE CHURCH

## Ephesians 4:11

Apostles  
Prophets  
Evangelists  
Pastor-teacher (or pastors and teachers)

## Romans 12:6–8

Prophecy  
Service/serving  
Teaching  
Encouragement  
Giving  
Leading  
Showing mercy

## 1 Corinthians 12:8–10

A word of wisdom  
A word of knowledge  
Faith  
Healing  
Working of miracles  
Prophecy  
Distinguishing between spirits  
Speaking in tongues  
Interpretation of tongues

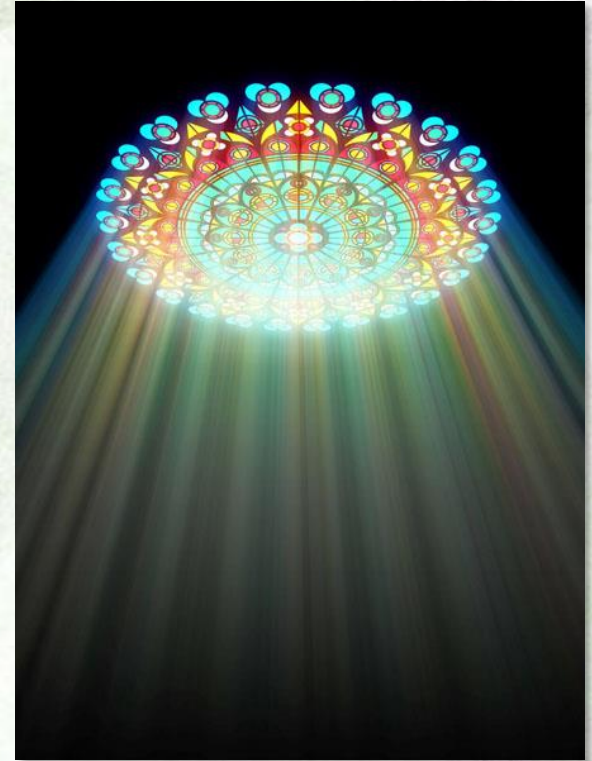
## 1 Corinthians 12:28–30

Apostles  
Prophets  
Teachers  
Miracles  
Healings  
Helps  
Guidance  
Tongues  
Interpreting tongues

# THE CHURCH

## Power and Weakness

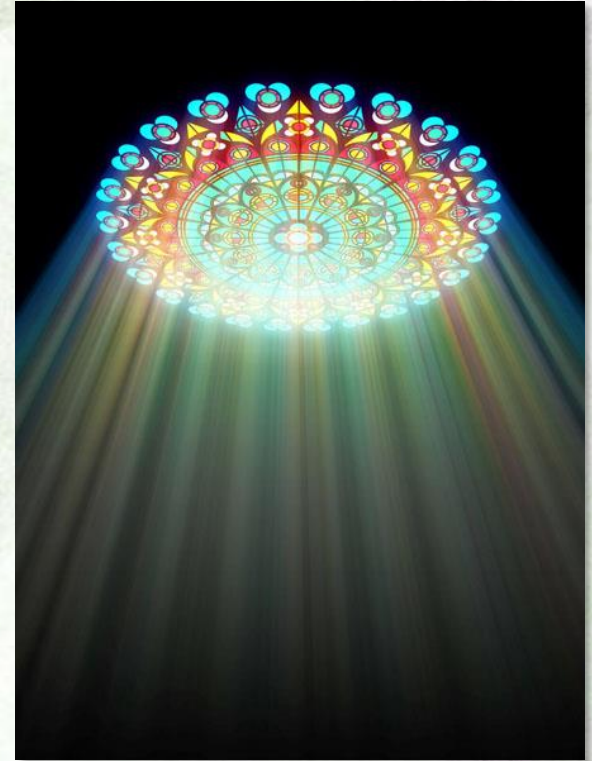
- God empowers his people to carry on their ministries in the church. Spiritual gifts aren't only about the abilities one may have, but about what God is doing in and through the church and how we fit in.



# THE CHURCH

## Power and Weakness

- God is always active inside and outside the church. We must discern how he is active and ask him to empower us to be part of those activities.





# THE CHURCH

## Power and Weakness

- The apostle Paul reminds us that our calling does not depend on who we are, what we have, and what we can do.

*God uses for his glory what we can offer!*



# THE CHURCH

## Power and Weakness

- God is not limited to our personality and abilities. He often calls us to serve him and others out of our weaknesses, even to the point of emphasizing that we are weak.



# THE CHURCH

## Power and Weakness

- Paul says, “For when I am weak, then I am strong” (2 Cor. 12:10).
- We must serve out of humility, dependence, and trust.

*God’s strength shines through our weaknesses!*



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# THE HOLY SPIRIT & SPIRITUAL GIFTS



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# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Who is the Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit is a person. The Spirit is God.
- Jesus promised his disciples to send the Spirit of truth, one who ...
  - “will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you” (John 14:26).
- Jesus has not left his disciples alone. The Holy Spirit is with us.

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## What does the Spirit do?

- Besides giving us comfort as we wait for Jesus' return, the Spirit is actively moving within our lives.

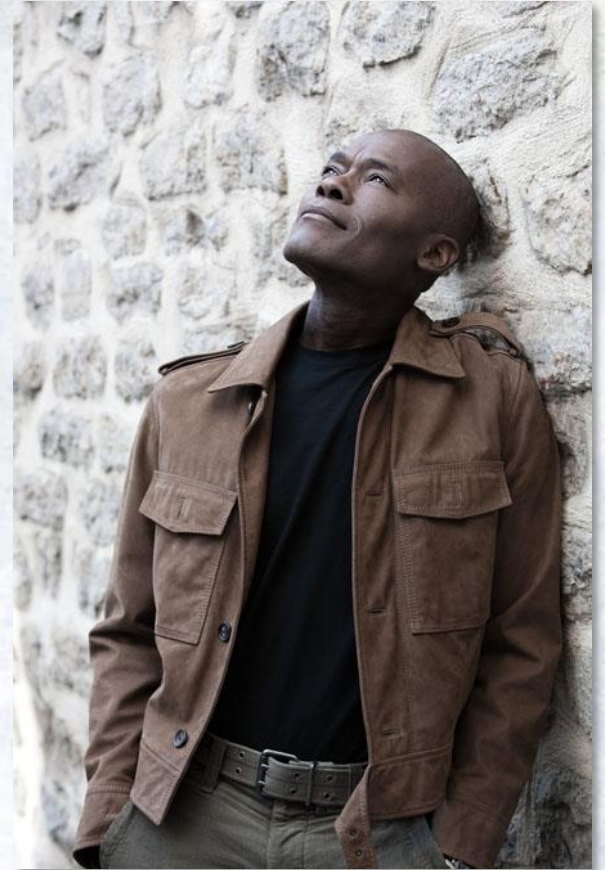
## Ministries of the Holy Spirit:

Advocates  
Convicts  
Draws to Christ  
Teaches  
Seals  
Guides  
Intercedes  
Empowers

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Advocates

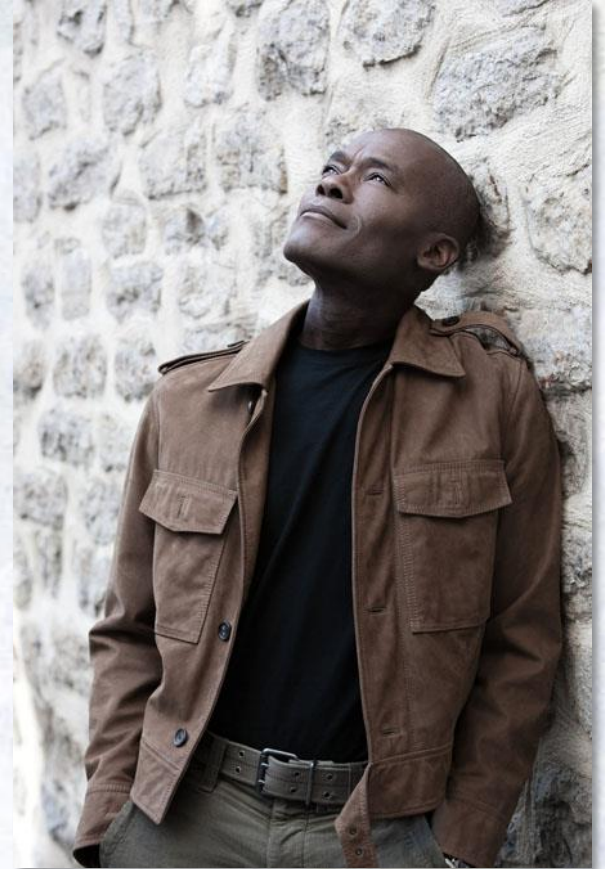
- “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.”—John 14:16



# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Advocates

- The Holy Spirit teaches, reveals, and interprets Jesus' words to his followers.
- The Holy Spirit is the divine presence with Jesus' followers.





# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Convicts

- The Holy Spirit will convince people of the need to repent from sin, that justice is only achieved through Christ, and that judgment of all humanity belongs to Jesus alone.
  - “When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.”—John 16:8–9

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

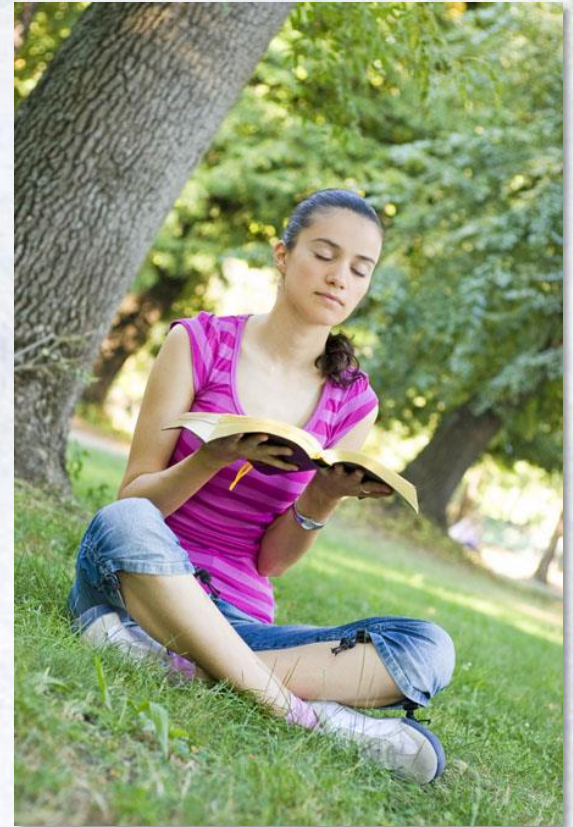
## **Draws us to Christ**

- The Holy Spirit leads people to Christ at all times.
  - “He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.”—John 16:14

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Teaches

- “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”—  
John 14:26



# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Seals

- Like a “seal of authenticity,” the Holy Spirit marks us as God’s property.
  - “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.”—  
Ephesians 1:13



# THE HOLY SPIRIT

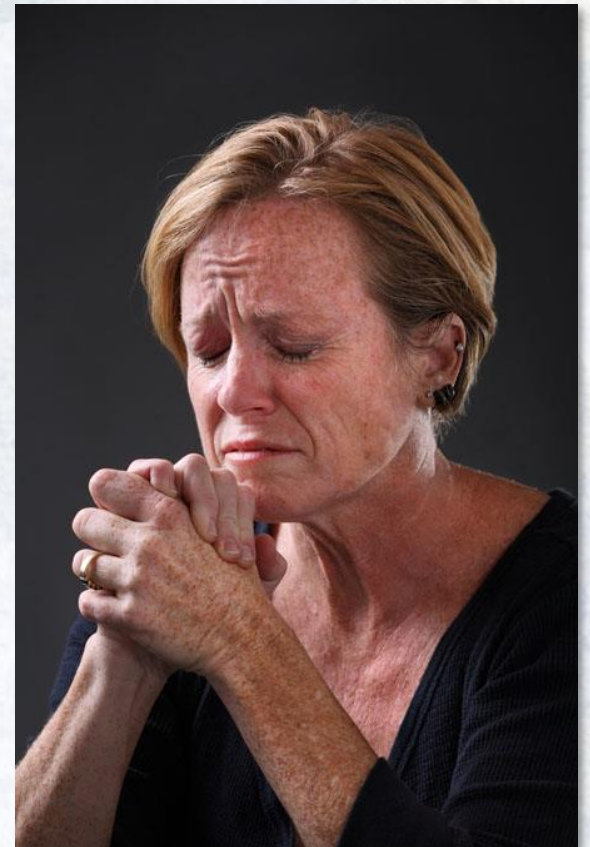
## Guides

- “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”—John 16:13

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Intercedes

- “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.”—Romans 8:26



# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## **Empowers**

- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”—Acts 1:8

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

- These ministries identify the Holy Spirit's main function: *to glorify Christ!*
  - Jesus said, “[The Spirit] will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.”—John 16:14
- Similarly, the primary function of our own ministries is to glorify Christ.





# THE HOLY SPIRIT


- The other critical function of our ministries—service—in the church is to allow the body to mature, to grow up.

## How do we reach this goal?

- *Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit!* Each Christian becomes an extension of God's own ministry among his people.



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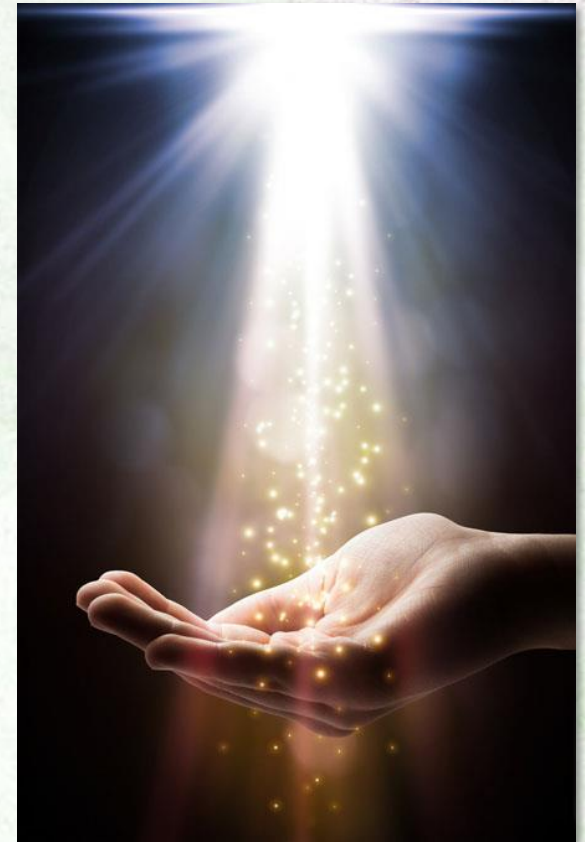
# HAVE SOME SPIRITUAL GIFTS CEASED?



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# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

- One of the most debated issues in Christian theology is the “extraordinary” or “miraculous” gifts of the Holy Spirit:
  - Apostleship
  - Prophecy
  - Speaking in and interpreting tongues
  - Working of miracles



# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

## Cessationists

- Some believers hold that these gifts were limited to a period between Jesus' ascension and the death of the last apostle, Jesus' beloved disciple John (about AD 90).
- People who hold this view are known as cessationists. The “miraculous” or “extraordinary” gifts have ceased.

# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

## Cessationists

- These gifts were necessary to lay down the church's foundation: the teachings of the apostles.
- Apostleship as a gift ended when the New Testament-era apostles died.
  - Since the church has already been founded, the presence of apostles is no longer necessary.

# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

## Cessationists

- Since the writings of the New Testament are finished, there is no need for new revelation.
  - Thus, the gift of prophecy is no longer necessary.

# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

## **Continuationists**

- Other Christians affirm the continuation of all of the gifts. They are continuationists. The “miraculous” or “extraordinary” gifts continue.
- The Holy Spirit continues to grant these gifts to the church so it can continue its mission in the world.

# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

## Continuationists

- Although the foundation work—for example, writing the New Testament—of apostles and prophets has ended, they had other functions, like planting new churches or bringing the gospel to people who've never heard it.



# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

## **Continuationists**

- Unlike prophecy as an office in the Old Testament, prophecy in the church is a gift that any believer can have, though some have a special gift in this area.

# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

## **Continuationists**

- Prophecy today does not reveal God's will the way the Scriptures did. It communicates God's word to his people for encouragement, edification, and guidance.
- Prophecy and all other gifts are dependent and subordinated to the authority of the Scriptures.

# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

## Other

- Many other believers would fall in an in-between category of being “open but cautious.”
- Still other believers hold that some of the miraculous gifts continue, but others have ceased.

# HAVE SOME GIFTS CEASED?

- Whatever view we take, we must remember that the spiritual gifts are meant to promote the unity of the body.
- In the letters of Paul, the unity of the body is necessary for the church's growth.
- The alternative, disunity and spiritual arrogance, tears down the church.



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# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Explanation of Each Gift

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# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Apostle

- We can speak of more than one kind of apostle in the New Testament.
  - (1) The first kind refers to those Jesus called and set apart, who witnessed his life and ministry. They are the first twelve disciples, although it also includes people like Paul and James (see 1 Corinthians 9:1; 15:5–9; Galatians 2:9).



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Apostle

- (2) A different type of apostle includes those who were especially appointed as missionaries to spread the gospel—for example, Barnabas (Acts 13:2–3; 14:14) and Silas (Acts 15:40; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2:6).



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Miracles

- For the apostle Paul, miracles existed to validate the message of the apostles.
  - “I persevered in demonstrating among you the marks of a true apostle, including signs, wonders and miracles” (2 Corinthians 12:12).





# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Miracles

- Many Christians believe that the need for these miracles for validation ended with the passing of the apostles.
- However, Christians affirm the possibility and existence of miracles from God today.
- Miracles strengthen the believers' faith. They build up the church.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

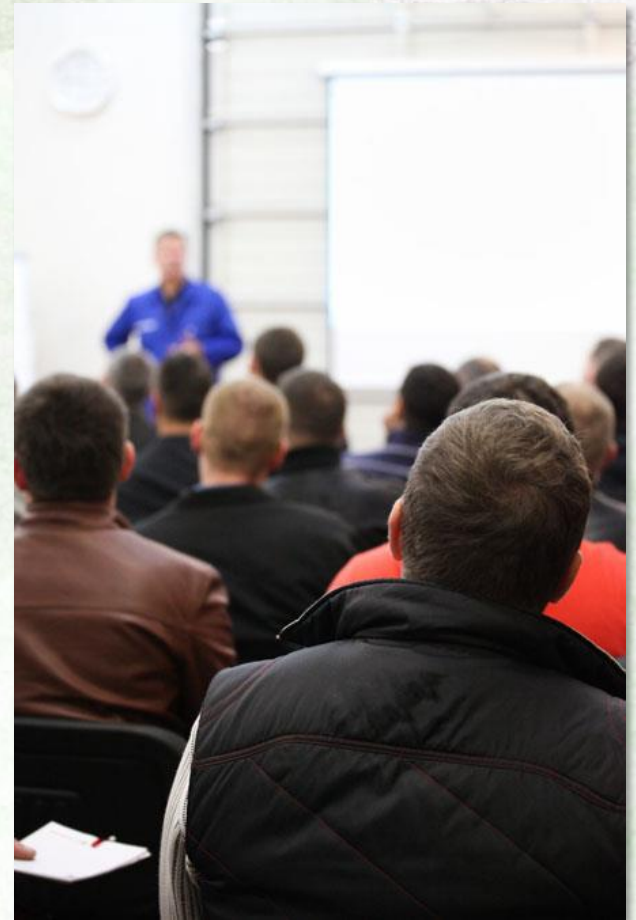
## Miracles

- Examples in the Bible
  - The judgment of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:9–11).
  - The judgment of Elymas the magician (Acts 13:6–11).
  - “The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people.”—Acts 5:12

# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Teaching, Pastor-Teacher

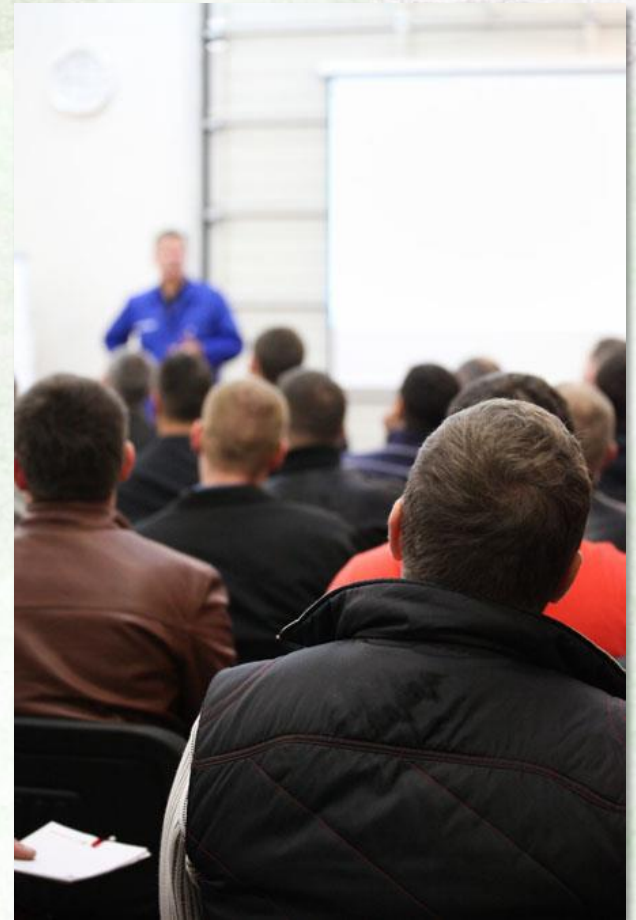
- Traditionally, the ministry of pastors is closely connected to that of teaching.
- In addition to caring for the members of each church, the other crucial role of pastors is to explain the apostolic teachings to believers.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Teaching, Pastor-Teacher

- However, many people can thrive as teachers without having to become pastors.
- Teaching is a vital ministry of the body of Christ.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

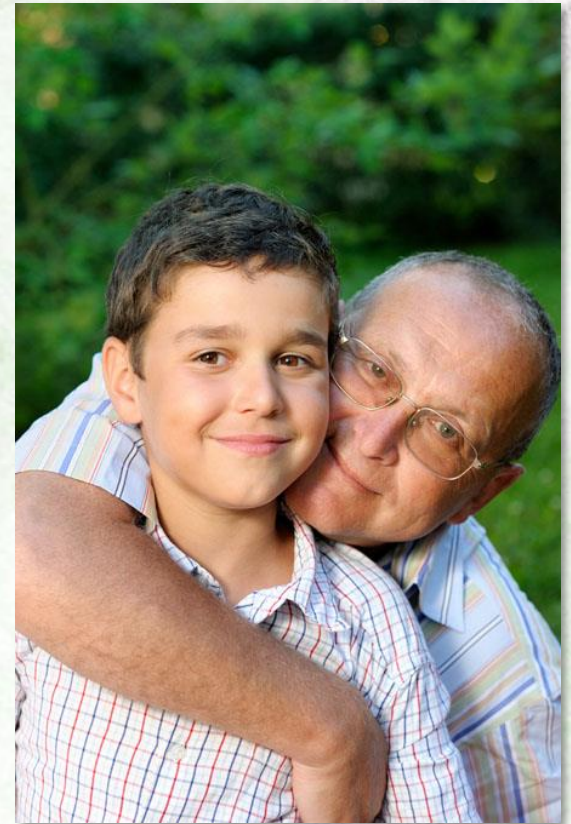
## **Teaching, Pastor-Teacher**

- Beyond giving information, teaching allows people to deepen their relationship with God.
- Teaching equips believers to be aware of false teachings that they might encounter.

# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Exhortation

- Closely connected to other gifts, exhortation means that one comes alongside of someone with:
  - Words of encouragement
  - Comfort
  - Consolation
  - Counsel to help others be all God wants them to be



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Evangelism

- Though sharing the gospel is a privilege and responsibility of every believer, some people have the ability to present the message of salvation in a clear, simple, and engaging way.
- These people can provide leadership to all believers to carry on their task of evangelism.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Healings

- Connected to miracles, healings were also a demonstration of God's power that validated apostolic authority.





# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Healings

- The specific “office” of healer—if there was ever one—may have ended with the apostolic age.
- However, Christians continue to believe that God can and does heal as a response to prayer.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge**

- The Corinthian church seemed to have struggled with being too impressed with the “flashy” gifts of tongues and prophecy.
- Although Paul does not deny their importance, he makes it clear that these gifts without love, wisdom, and knowledge are empty.

“To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit.”  
—1 Cor. 12:8

# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge**

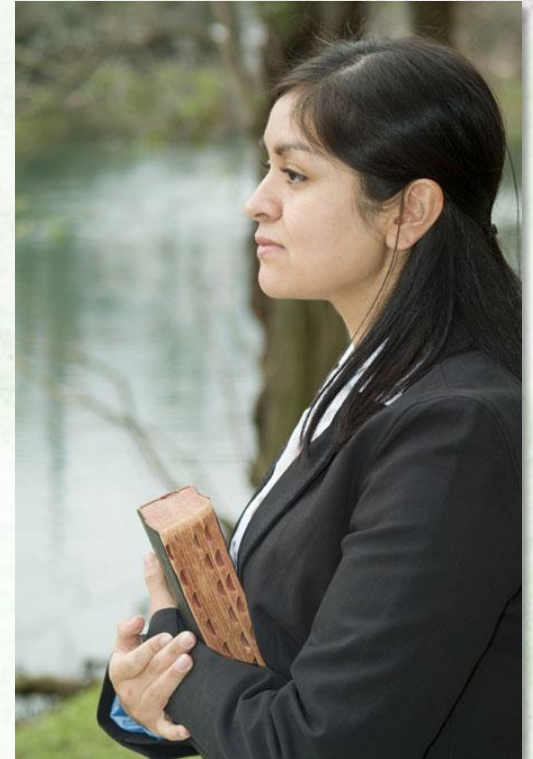
- Wisdom is the discerning and understanding of God's doings in the world and the way the world functions.
- Wisdom is a critical ministry that allows all ministries and gifts of the church to work in harmony and unity.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge**

- Knowledge allows believers to understand and explain God's revelation to others.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Helping, Serving, Giving, Mercy

- These gifts are so closely related that some assign them to the tasks of deacons.
- However, the overall context of the Bible passages suggest that they are activities for all believers.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Helping, Serving, Giving, Mercy

- These gifts are crucial for the maturity of the church. Service stands at the core of our calling.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Helping, Serving, Giving, Mercy

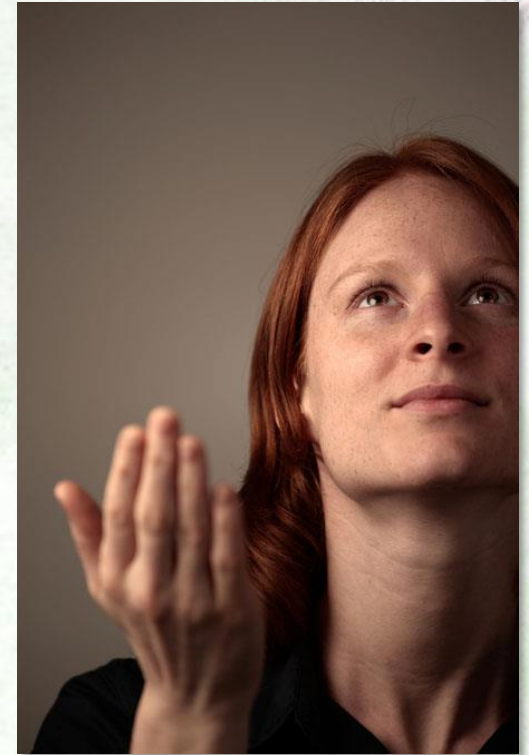
- The practice of these gifts can be as varied as:
  - Offering help to widows, orphans, and the poor
  - Giving aid for the daily activities in the church
  - Discerning when individuals or groups are in need of help to carry on their ministries.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Faith

- This faith does not refer to “saving faith,” which every believer has.
- Nor does it refer to the daily faith necessary for the Christian life (Eph. 2:8), which every believer is expected to exercise (Heb. 11).
- Rather, it refers to a faith that complements the other gifts and allows them to be daring and active.

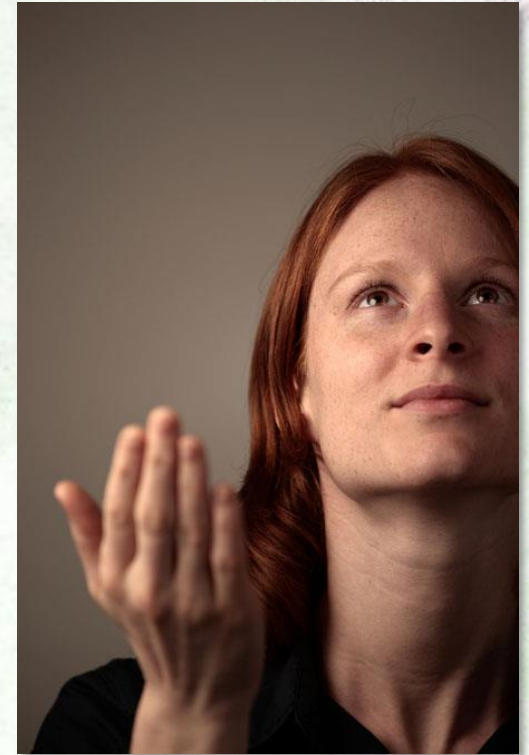




# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Faith

- When the ministries of the church face odds that overwhelm most people, this ministry of faith challenges, encourages, and reminds people that we serve a powerful God who owns and controls all things.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Leadership, Guidance

- Although traditionally these gifts have been related to the ministry of elders in the church, the context of the passages suggest that they are meant for all believers.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Leadership, Guidance

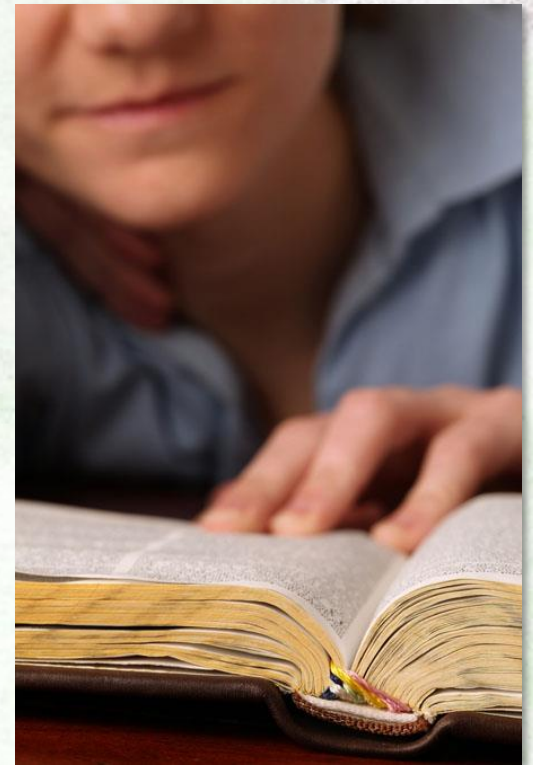
- These ministries are applicable to many areas of church life:
  - Goals for the church
  - Teaching
  - Evangelism
  - Acts of mercy and service
  - And many others



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **Discernment (distinguishing between spirits)**

- In the context of the letter to the Corinthians, distinguishing (or discerning) between spirits may refer to two activities.
  - (1) Recognizing truth from error
  - (2) Recognizing the leading of the Holy Spirit



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

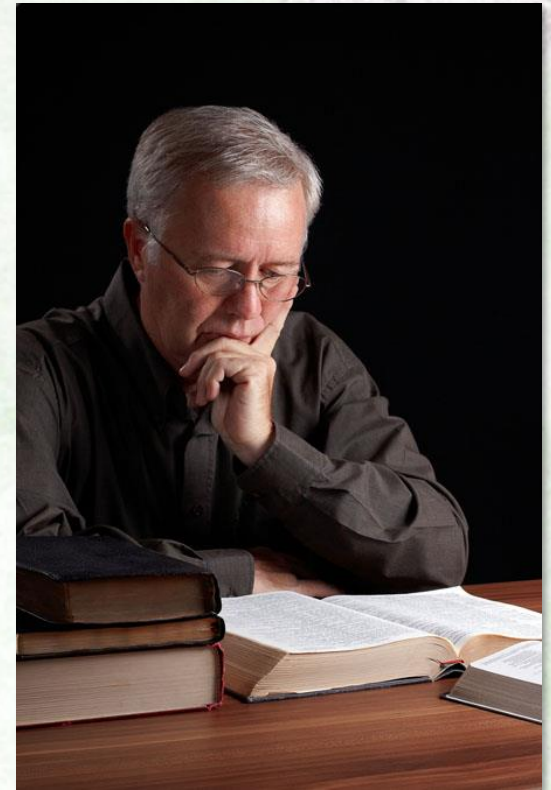
## Discernment

- (1) The ability to recognize truth from error.
  - In this sense, truth is a revelation from God, so this gift is the ability to discern when a prophecy actually comes from God.
  - According to many believers, since God has stopped revealing his will in the same way he did in the Bible and since prophecies have stopped, this part of discerning is no longer necessary.

# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Discernment

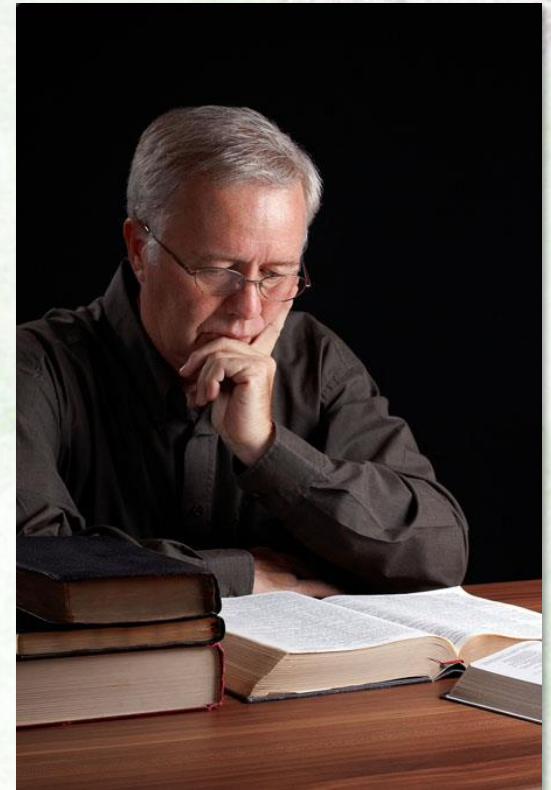
- (2) The ministry of discerning when a teaching or a plan fits in with God's will, whether it comes from the leading of the Holy Spirit.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Discernment

- It also includes the ability to discern when a new teaching contradicts the basic teachings of the Christian faith.
- For example, if it contradicts the teaching on:
  - The Trinity
  - The person and ministry of Christ
  - The person and ministry of the Spirit
  - The inspiration of the Scriptures



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Discernment

- “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.”—1 John 4:1–3



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues

- The apostle Paul did not discourage speaking in tongues—in fact, he urged the Corinthian leaders to not forbid it:
  - “Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.”—1 Corinthians 14:39
- However, Paul was correcting an error in the church. Some in the Corinthian church were too enchanted with the flashy gift of speaking in tongues.

# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues**

- Paul reminds them that speaking in tongues without love is like a “resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.” His main concern is the edification of the church as a whole, as a body.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues

- He explains that speaking in tongues edifies the one speaking:
  - “Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.”—1 Corinthians 14:4
- Thus, for the apostle Paul, speaking in tongues seems to be secondary.



# THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues**

- Today, Christians are divided on whether the ministry of speaking in tongues has stopped or continues.
- Paul makes it clear that the unity of the body of Christ is far more important than speaking, or not speaking, in tongues.

# FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

[Menu](#)

# FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **Ask**

- Ask God for guidance and wisdom to find your place in the church's ministry.

## **Reflect**

- Your life experience can be a good guide to find your interests and abilities.



# FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## Look

- Be mindful of the needs of your church.
- Sometimes, God will call you to minister—serve—in places you might not prefer.
- The calling may be temporary or long term.



# FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **Obey**

- Be ready, willing, and courageous. Obedience is challenging.

## **Listen**

- Listen to the encouragement, wisdom, and guidance of other members of the body of Christ.

## **Pray**

- Be prayerful about finding God's will for you.



# FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

## **Taking a spiritual gifts questionnaire**

- Questionnaires are just one of many tools to help you discern where you fit in the church's many ministries.
- They can help you learn or confirm areas of affinity—areas that you naturally tend to focus on. But they're not meant to definitively tell you what your gift is.



# FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

***Stop* and take the Spiritual Gifts Questionnaire provided by your instructor.**



# FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

**After taking the questionnaire, *discuss* as a class or in small groups:**

- For which three spiritual gifts do you have the *highest* scores?
- For which three spiritual gifts do you have the *lowest* scores?
- Were you surprised by the results of your questionnaire, or were the results what you expected?



# FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- How are you using your spiritual gifts now in your life?
- How accepting are you when other believers use their spiritual gifts to minister to you? (For instance, do you gladly accept or try to avoid situations in which believers give, teach, provide guidance, encourage, or pray for you?)



# FINDING YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Simply knowing your spiritual gifts is not the goal, but rather knowing how to serve God as a member of Christ's body and serving are the real goals.

## ***Spiritual Gifts PowerPoint***<sup>®</sup>

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